Commercial development of land near Delhi airport

1103. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the Attorney General's clear chit, his Ministry has asked Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) not to go ahead with an innovative plan to charge high deposits and low rentals from the winning bidders for commercial development of 43 acres of land near the airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) how much revenue Government is going to loose as per the market price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Delhi International Airport Private Limited (DIAL) had earlier proposed to raise part-finance through security deposit from property development at the airport. The proposal was being processed. In the meanwhile, DIAL has come forward with other options for funding the project and they are being examined.

Free Air Travel for disabled persons

1104. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a final decision for the benefit of the free air travel by the disabled persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is expected to be initiated;

(c) whether a similar facility is expected to be provided to senior citizens above 70 years of age; and

(d) if not, what financial concession is expected to be provided to the senior citizens and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) There is no such proposal at present. However, erstwhile Indian Airlines offers a discount of 50% on the normal Economy Class fare to disabled persons suffering from Locomotor disability to the extent of 80% and above, on domestic sectors. In the case of blind persons, erstwhile Indian Airlines offers a discount upto 50% and erstwhile Air India offers a discount upto 55% on the normal Economy Class fare for travel within India or between India and Nepal.

Similarly, erstwhile Indian Airlines offers a 50% discount on the normal Economy Class fare to Senior Citizens, who are 65 years & above in case of males and 63 years & above in case of females, for travel within India. Erstwhile Air India offers a discount of upto 55% on the normal Economy Class fare for all domestic travel in India to Senior Citizens who are 65 years & above.

Flight services from Goa

1105. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines (IA) operates any direct flight from Goa without any stop in between;

(b) if not, the reasons behind Air India/Indian Airlines not operating such flights;

(c) whether any such flight was being operated by IA earlier;

(d) if so, the reasons why it was discontinued;

(e) whether Air India proposes to operate any flight from Delhi or Mumbai to Goa between 6 PM to 12 PM; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. National Aviation Company of India Limited (erstwhile Indian Airlines) operates direct flights from Goa to Mumbai, Chennai, Calicut, Bangalore, and Kuwait without any stop in between.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) Due to the aircraft and other operating resources being fully committed, erstwhile Indian Airlines has no plans to commence any flight from Delhi or Mumbai to Goa between 6 PM to 12 PM.

Construction work for cargo hub at Nagpur

†1106. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) by when the construction work of cargo hub has been approved at Nagpur in Maharashtra and its cost at the time of approval;

(b) the status of the work at present and amount incurred so far;

(c) whether the construction work is going on as per scheduled time and by when it would be completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 17.1.2008 has accorded 'in principle' approval to the proposal for transfer of Dr. Ambedkar International Airport, Nagpur to a Joint Venture Company (JVC) of Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Maharashtra Airport Development Company Limited (MADC) for upgradation of the airport to a world class Multi Modal International Passenger and Cargo Hub with the directions that (i) the Indian Air Force (IAF) will continue to use its existing facilities in Nagpur till appropriate alternative arrangements are put in place and that any transfer of land of the IAF to the Joint Venture will take place only after concurrence by the Ministry of Defence, and (ii) a Committee comprising of Cabinet Secretary, Finance Secretary, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra will examine the financial structure of the proposed JV and related issues.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.